**Ethics Reflection**

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?
2. Is ethics more a matter of the head or the heart?
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Knowledge and emotions are gained from both sources; the head and the heart. This gain in knowledge and emotion allows us as individuals to decide on our behaviour and our actions.

I believe ethics is both a matter of the head and the heart as both have to be in sync in order to determine what is right and what is wrong. This determination of how we act and behave from what we believe to be right or wrong, I believe, is highly dependent on the situation itself. When it comes to situations of conflict or problem where one’s behaviour and actions must be dealt through knowledge, justification and reason; the head is more reliable. However, the heart may be more reliable in situations which can be solved through emotion and sense perception.

The role of science, being an area of knowledge, can be used to further explain how certain situations help determine whether ethics is a matter of the head or the heart. For example, a situation in a hospital can be considered. A patient has just passed away but is still able to donate his/her organs, however when filling out the medical form the family clearly state that they would not like the body to be given up of any of its organs. Another patient has urgently been hospitalised and is in need of a kidney. No other patients have the medical requirements matching the second patient, to donate other than the patient who has just passed away. Being a doctor, would you take the organ from the first patient anyway, without the family knowing? Would that be morally right? From your sense perception, you would of course start feeling sorry for the second patient who is suffering. Your heart allows you develop such emotions but this would then link to your head. You understand that the action that you want to carry out of free will in order to help someone is wrong since this can conclude to consequences, and of course it is not being truthful to yourself.

All in all, it is difficult to decide whether ethics is a matter of the head or the heart as both sources help to conclude on the actions and behaviours of different individuals. However, if one were to be chosen, I believe ethics is more of a matter of the heart. This is said as your behaviour and actions are based on the moral principles you follow which you have agreed with, with your heart. Only then will your head be put to use by allowing you to fully understand and think through the logical aspects of moral principles. Therefore before the head is to come into action, your heart has to accept it before it can be developed into moral principles.

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?

Good moral decisions are difficult to make, are complex and are connected to different contexts. You are being asked to do an ethical analysis which is based on your emotions and what you consider to be morally good which is sculpted by the environment mostly and from some personal beliefs. I believe that consistency in moral reasoning is important up to a certain extent and is greatly dependant on certain situations. It is important to be consistent in moral reasoning because people are faced with moral dilemmas every day and without it, our actions and behaviour would conclude in different consequences of which are mainly negative, because exceptions would be made on certain decisions made.

However, certain situations force individuals to prevent from thinking morally especially if it would to conclude in positive outcomes. For example, a situation related to medical science can be considered. A woman is faced with a special kind of cancer and there is only one kind of drug that has recently been discovered and may help her. The drug is being charged at a very expensive rate by the druggist. The sick women’s husband did not have enough money to buy the drug and so asked the druggist to lower his prices but would not do so. The husband got so desperate because from his sense perception observed his wife’s suffering. He broke into the druggist’s store to steal the drug for his wife. Should the husband have done that? If the husband was morally consistent, he would not steal because it is morally incorrect; it is wrong. However his reasons behind his actions were worthy.

All in all I believe that even if one were to want to be morally consistent, it would be difficult because ones actions and behaviour are heavily based on emotions as well as reasons which vary for different situations.